

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 10367 080057Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 10367

EXDIS

FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VE

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH VENEZUELAN FONMIN SCHACHT

1. IN EXTENDED PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN SCHACHT, AT HIS REQUEST, HE INSISTED ON LAYING OUT HIS VIEWS ON THE NEED FOR, AND FORMAT OF, A TRIP BY THE SECRETARY TO LATIN AMERICA. A VISIT IS, IN HIS MIND, ESSENTIAL. HE URGES SIX COUNTRIES: PERU, ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA AND VENEZUELA.

2. HE CLAIMED THAT HIS PRESIDENT WAS DISTURBED AT THE FAILURE OF THE PERUVIANS TO ADVISE VENEZUELA OF ITS INVITATION TO CUBA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AYACUCHO CELEBRATIONS. ROA'S PRESENCE WAS SAID TO RAISE SOME PROBLEMS FOR PEREZ WHO IS NEVERTHELESS ARRIVING THIS AFTERNOON.

3. SCHACHT HAS TALKED WITH CHILEAN FONMIN CARVAJAL, HERE IN LIMA ABOUT THE CUBAN PROBLEM. CUBA IS VEXING TO VENEZUELA'S HOPES FOR A MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS NEXT YEAR. CARVAJAL PROPOSES THAT THE PARTICIPANTS BE LIMITED TO THOSE STATES WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF CECLA, THUS ELIMINATING CUBA. HOW THIS MATTER WILL BE RESOLVED SCHACHT DID NOT SAY. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THE LA PRESIDENTIAL MEETING WOULD NOT BE DIRECTED AGAINST THE U.S., BUT RATHER IS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE U.S./LATIN AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING. VENEZUELA HAS CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED AN OAS WITHOUT THE U.S.

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PAGE 02 LIMA 10367 080057Z

4. HE SAID THAT HIS OWN GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO RECOGNIZE CUBA SOON. IN RESPONSE TO MY MENTION OF THE RIO TREATY, HE SAID THAT VENEZUELA WOULD NOT RENOUNCE IT, BUT WOULD PUSH FOR ITS REFORM.

5. HE TOUCHED ON THE MEETING NEXT WEEK IN CARACAS OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS. ODUBER, HE EMPHASIZED, HAS A LONG RELATIONSHIP WITH PEREZ. BEYOND THAT, VENEZUELA WANTS TO FIND SOME FURTHER WAY TO HELP THE REGION ECONOMICALLY. CUBA WOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING.

6. WE DID NOT GET FAR ON THE PROPOSED BILATERAL TALKS. HE GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS NOT AT ALL IN CONTROL OF THIS MATTER, BUT THAT IT RESTED WITH THE PRESIDENT AND PEREZ GUERRRERRO. THEY WILL DETERMINE WHAT QUESTIONS OUGHT TO BE ON THE AGENDA, HOW AND WHERE PRELIMINARY CONVERSATIONS MIGHT BE HELD AND WHEN A VENEZUELAN MIGHT COME TO WASHINGTON.

7. SCHACHT SAID HIS WOUNDS FROM QUITO HAD NOT YET HEALED, AND EXPRESSED SOME UNCERTAINTY ABOUT HIS CONTINUATION AS FOREIGN MINISTER.

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